



Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauā.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



Friday August 22, 2008

Vol. III, No. 33

In This Issue:

**Department of
Agriculture,
Land Grant,
and SPC Team
Up
to Ensure Arts
Fest
Biosecurity**
Pg. 2

**DOE will get
help in
classrooms
from 20 World
Teach
volunteers**
Pg. 3

**DPS to
construct new
prison facility**
Pg. 6

**Ituau faipule
requests
Governor and
Police
Commish to
update and
publicize sex
offender
registry**
Pg. 7

**Historical Notes
& much, much
more...**

*For additional
news,
information
and much,
much, more
about your
government,
visit the
ASG Website
at
[http://www.
americansamoa.
gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov)*

PNRS approves Land Use Permit Application (LUPA) for fiber optic cable project

The Project Notification and Review System Board has approved, with conditions, the Land Use Permit Application (LUPA) for the highly anticipated fiber optic cable project.

The approval was granted following a hearing last week where PacRim East Redeployment (PRR) LLC Representative Fay Ala'ilima-Rose offered testimony about the project.

No public comments were voiced during the hearing.

Conditions of the approval requires, among other things, that PRR provide response letters from various federal agencies that they are required to consult with on the project. These federal agencies include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Historic Preservation Office.

The response letters are to be submitted to the Department of Interior which is responsible for meeting the requirements of the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

According to Ala'ilima-Rose's testimony, the project is still on schedule with a target date of March 2009. The cable is currently located about 100 miles off American Samoa at a depth of about 15,000 feet. A submarine vessel will detect the cable before recovering and relaying it to the territory.

The contractor bringing in the submarine vessel is Alcatel, whose engineers departed the territory last week after completing the site survey for the terminal equipment at the end of the cable.

Ala'ilima-Rose explained that this equipment provides light for the fiber, as well as the power feed for repeaters. There is matching terminal equipment in the Aloha State currently running the cable.

Alcatel will install the terminal equipment and ensure the fiber is in working condition before turning it over to American Samoa Hawaii Cable LLC (ASHC), the operating company.

The engineers carrying out the site survey of the terminal include a pair from Alcatel, two from Telcom New Zealand (who initially installed the cable), and PRR project manager Doug Neilson, all of who are currently in Samoa conducting site survey there.

In other project news, the marine survey is expected to be completed next month. The survey consists of several stages including the desktop survey which is completed. The deep water survey collected data two weeks ago while the near shore survey is set to begin in September.

Ala'ilima-Rose said the survey analysis should be completed by the end of next month, at which time the land route construction is scheduled to begin, with an expected completion date of December 2008.

Recovery of the cable and relaying it should begin in December and be completed by January 2009.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7

Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

Department of Agriculture, Land Grant, and SPC Team Up to Ensure Arts Fest Biosecurity

By ASCC/CNR Staff

The 2008 Festival of Pacific Arts gave the people of American Samoa an opportunity to experience other island cultures and make new friends as we hosted visitors from throughout the Pacific. Residents can be grateful that unwanted exotic agricultural pests and diseases were not among those visitors, thanks to hard work by the Department of Agriculture's quarantine division, with assistance from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the American Samoa Community College Division of Community and Natural Resources (CNR/Land Grant).

The arrival of so many people from around the Pacific, with traditional costumes and crafts items, presented a big challenge for American Samoa's quarantine officers who work to prevent new agricultural pests and diseases from entering the territory as accidental hitchhikers in luggage or cargo. As the festival approached, the quarantine officers met the planes and boats that arrived at all hours of the day and night bringing delegates and their festival materials. They ensured that all visitors complied with the festival guidelines, developed by the SPC and distributed in advance to the festival delegations, prohibiting the importation of high risk plant and animal materials. The quarantine officers enforced a policy of 100% inspections at the airport and seaport to intercept any items that may have carried potential pests or diseases. Intercepted items had to be either destroyed or treated prior to release. All these inspections, interceptions, and treatments kept the quarantine officers busy around the clock, making it necessary for several of the department's extension officers to be temporarily detailed to assist with the quarantine efforts, during which SPC and ASCC/Land Grant also provided crucial technical assistance.

While no one can be certain the quarantine effort was 100% successful, it is already clear that the hard work was necessary. A total of 24 interceptions of infested items containing approximately 57 species of animals and plant seeds were made. One interception from Australia contained 64 exotic invasive snails of three different species that are among that nation's worst agricultural pests. A bag of fruits carried by a passenger from Tonga contained the Tongan fruit fly, the island nation's most damaging fruit fly pest. A bag of betel nut carried by a passenger from Guam was found to contain four species of scale insects. One of those four is not known to occur in American Samoa and is a serious pest of citrus and other trees elsewhere. If any of these hitchhiking pests had made it past the quarantine officers and become established in the territory, the consequences to local agriculture could have been serious.

Although the quarantine work at the airport and seaport has now returned to its usual pace, the Department of Agriculture – Land Grant team is continuing to operate its network of fruit fly quarantine surveillance traps that were installed at all the festival lodging and performance venues. These traps are designed to detect any exotic fruit flies that may have been accidentally introduced, so they can be eradicated before they become established in the territory. Like many in the community, the Department of Agriculture and CNR staff who assisted with the arts festival are still recuperating from all the hard work that helped make the event a success. Thanks to their efforts and support from the SPC, we can all be grateful that the arts festival didn't bring us some unwelcome agricultural pest visitors that would never go back home.



"Checking fruit fly trap" Department of Agriculture quarantine officer Talavou Ale collects flies from one of the fruit fly surveillance traps placed at all Pacific Arts Festival performance and lodging venues to monitor for any exotic pest fruit flies that may have been accidentally introduced to American Samoa during the event. (Photo: CNR)



"Snails from bluebush" These exotic plant-eating snails were intercepted by Department of Agriculture quarantine staff on Pacific Arts Festival items brought from Australia. Vigilance pays off! (Courtesy Photo)

ASCC's AELEL program offers year-round classes for local adults

The American Samoa Community College's Division of Adult Education Learning and Extended Learning (AELEL) is inviting all local adults to take advantage of their year-round classes.

The next AELEL term registration begins August 25.

The AELEL offers free instruction in preparing for the GED, as well as other courses including English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, Computer Literacy, etc.

AELEL conducts the classes free of charge as a community service through funding from the Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Classes after 4 p.m. can be offered upon demand and more information, including class schedules, can be obtained by calling 699-9155 ext. 343, 437, 409.

DOE will get help in the classrooms this school year from 20 World Teach volunteers

Approximately 20 volunteer educators from the non-profit organization World Teach in Cambridge, Massachusetts have arrived on island to offer their services in classrooms across Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands for the new school year set to begin on August 25.

According to a DOE official, the arrival of the volunteers will be a great help to the local Department of Education as they try to fill classrooms with qualified teachers.

A one-day training course for the volunteers was conducted at the Pacific Islands Center for Educational Development (PICED) in Nuuli and according to PICED director Sandra King-Young, the volunteers received training in three different areas.

They include college admissions and financial aid counseling, learning how to engage with parents of the students and how to get them involved in their child's education, and training the volunteers on how to relate and teach in culturally diverse classrooms.

According to King-Young, the volunteers include an outstanding group of young people, some of which graduated from prestigious schools like Harvard, UCLA, and Boston College.

A DOE representative said that of the 20 volunteers, 6 will be sent to the Manu'a Islands to teach in the classrooms there.

MV Sili expected to be back in service as early as next week

If all goes well, the MV Sili should be back in operation as early as next week. This is according to So'oto Fanene, Director of Port Operations.

Over the past two months, the Fotu-o-Samoa from the neighboring independent state has been providing passenger and cargo services for the people of the Manu'a Islands through a contract with the American Samoa Government.

So'oto explained that the propeller needed for the MV Sili is now on island and they are working as fast as they can to install the propeller and prepare the MV Sili for certification by the United States Coast Guard. The vessel is also required to undergo review to determine if it is ABS fit.

Upon successful completion of the necessary tests and certifications, says So'oto, the MV Sili will once again be sailing to and from the Manu'a Islands. "We are trying to work as fast as we can to get the MV Sili back in operation, to save all the money we are spending on chartering the Fotu-o-Samoa," So'oto explained.

The Fotu-o-Samoa was chartered in mid-June after the MV Sili was dry docked. At the time, Governor Togiola Tulafono expressed deep concern for the lack of sea transportation service to Ofu and Faleasao wharves, not to mention what he calls inconvenience and hardship placed on the residents of Manu'a with the MV Sili being out of operation.

The lack of sea transportation to Manu'a, according to the Governor, results in stores being low on stock as well as gasoline and other cargo not being delivered to Manu'a. According to Togiola, sea transportation to Manu'a is very important to sustain quality of life.

Soliai Tuipine Fuimaono confirmed for another 3-year term as Chief Election Officer

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously endorsed the re-appointment of Soliai Tuipine Fuimaono as the territory's Chief Election Officer.

Soliai's confirmation is for a term of three years.

Soliai has been the Chief Election Officer since 1993.

He was re-appointed for the post by Governor Togiola Tulafono who, in his memo, expressed his confidence in Soliai's ability in heading the independent agency of the government which handles all territorial elections.

There are no malaria-spreading mosquitoes in the territory, says DOH

The Department of Health is assuring the general public that despite concerns raised with DOH following the death of a delegate from the Solomon Islands – presumably from a cerebral malarial infection – only a week into the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts, earlier and recent studies of the general insect population in the territory reveals no recordings or sightings of the malaria-spreading *Anopheles* mosquito.

(The studies were held in collaboration with entomologist Dr. Mark Schmaedick of the American Samoa Community College's Land Grant Program).

DOH explained that female *Anopheles* mosquitoes are the vectors that transmit malaria from person to person and according to a physician that traveled here with the Solomon Islands delegation, the infection that resulted in the death of Garry Siloko is common in the Solomons.

Basically, according to DOH, the *Anopheles* mosquito that transmits malaria is not known to be an inhabitant of the territory.

In their efforts to put to rest what they call legitimate concerns raised by the public regarding malaria and dengue fever, DOH explained that the dengue virus and the malaria protozoa each need a certain mosquito host in order for the diseases to be transmitted.

This means the dengue virus needs the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito while the malarial protozoa need the *Anopheles* mosquito in order to survive. "These different germs cannot survive in any mosquito, which is why our dengue fever mosquito, *Aegypti*, cannot transmit malaria to anyone locally," DOH explains.

Unified Health Command deactivates emergency services

The Unified Health Command, composed of employees from the LBJ Medical Center, the Emergency Medical Services, and the Department of Health, officially deactivated its emergency services as of August 5.

All medical units and services, mobile and stationary, are now back to their normal daily activities.

(The Unified Health Command was in place to provide services during the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts when an estimated 2,000 visitors traveled to the territory for the celebrations and festivities).

A statement from the Department of Health, in collaboration with the LBJ Tropical Medical Center and EMS, offered thanks to the local community for their "patience and full support" received during the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts "in maintaining the quality medical care provided both to our visiting guests, locally as well."

Director of Health Uto'ofili Asofaafetai Maga also acknowledged the help of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Helping Hands whose members picked up trash at all Festival venues during the event which lasted nearly two weeks.

Uto'ofili described the strong presence of Helping Hands as astounding, saying: "There are no words to materialize our gratitude in your unrelenting service, making this mass gathering event a very clean one." He added, "You have made sanitation a new word in our book. A big *fa'amalo* and *fa'afetai tele* to these volunteers of all ages!"

Lastly, Uto'ofili thanked the Unified Health Command personnel for their services during the Festival.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On August 16, 2006, US Army Staff Sergeant Jeffrey S. Loa was killed in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol. Loa was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. He was the eighth Samoan soldier killed in Iraq.

On August 16, 1957, a special session of American Samoa's Fifth Legislature was called by Governor Peter Tali Coleman "to meet the Secretary of the Interior (Fred A. Seaton) and his party from the United States who were paying a special visit to the Territory."

On August 16, 2002, funeral services for Governor A.P. Lutali were held at the Samoana High School Gymnasium in Utulei, American Samoa. This was the first state funeral of a governor ever held in American Samoa.

On August 17, 1904, the Navy Department gave \$250 to Tui Manu'a Elisara for the completion of the school at Ta'u.

On August 17, 1961, Public Law 87-158 was enacted by the U.S. Congress. This Act stated "That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized and directed to transfer, without reimbursement or transfer of funds, to the Government of American Samoa, within ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act, title to all property, real and personal, which is located in American Samoa on the date of enactment of this Act and which is owned by the United States and is within the administrative supervision of the Department of the Navy on such date: Provided, That title to any personal property which was located in American Samoa on July 1, 1951, and was made available to the government of American Samoa by the Department of the Navy, but which has been consumed or disposed of since such date, shall be deemed to have been transferred to the government of American Samoa on July 1, 1951. Approved August 17, 1961."

On August 23, 1899, the U.S. Government purchased unnumbered parcels of land for the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila listed as "Acquisition of Water Rights: Reservoir, pipeline, etc." from "Mauga, Lutu, Tiumalu, Faanate, Mailo; Tamuu, Taesali, Isoa, chief talking men of Faga Toga, Tiumalua, Mailo, Afoa, Samia, Tamuu, Fagini, and Ifupo, owners of certain lands in and around Faga Toga" for \$300.00.

On August 23, 1941, the proposed plan "of enlistment of natives in the First Samoan Battalion [U.S. Marine Corps Reserve] estimated that approximately 753 were prospective candidates. These figures cannot be used as accurate, it was pointed out, because the natives change their names frequently and because they reported for drills in different villages. Three hundred and one men attended weekly drills regularly. More than 200 men of these prospects were employed in other than plantation work. It was estimated that not more than 50 men could be enlisted from the islands of the Manu'a Group without material injury to their economic and social life."

On August 24, 1943, First Lady (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt inspected the Fita Fita Guard and Band, and the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

Applications for Executive Leadership Development Program due September 1

The USDA Graduate School's Pacific Islands Training Initiative (PITI) is piloting an Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP) this year. According to their website, the ELDP "has been designed to assist the insular areas with developing and retaining the qualified, skilled staff that will become the future leaders of their respective governments. Program participants meet four times over the course of a year to develop skills in leadership, management, government finance, procurement, and auditing."

The ELDP is open to all government agencies and government enterprise organizations.

All insular areas are invited to participate in the ELDP program, including the flag territories (American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands) and freely associated states (Marshall Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia).

ELDP applications are due September 1, 2008. All fees associated with participation will be covered by the Pacific Islands Training Initiative, with funding support from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Any applicants not accepted into this initial program may be considered for subsequent program cycles.

According to Pat Galea'i, Director of the Office of Federal Programs, approximately 20 program participants from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, RMI and Palau will meet for four one-week courses in Guam, Pohnpei, Saipan, and Hawaii from October 2008 to August 2009.

The four courses include:

- Individual Assessment: Development of Action Plans (Guam, Oct. 20-24, 2008)
- Money Matters: Government Finance, Accounting, Procurement and Auditing (Saipan, Feb. 2-6, 2009)
- Leadership & Politics: Responsibilities of Elected Officials, Management Styles, and Tools (Pohnpei, May 11-15, 2009)
- Capstone: Facing the Future: Major Project Results and Personal Plans (Hawaii, August 10-14, 2009)

"The goal of the ELDP is to develop the young, talented Pacific islanders that will become the future leaders of their governments," Galea'i wrote.

He explained that PITI is currently seeking applicants for this first year. Applicants will be evaluated based on their potential for professional development, formal education, and likelihood of continuing work with their respective governments after the program period.

"PITI is accepting applications from all government departments and agencies, so if you, or someone you know, might be a good fit for the program, please encourage them to apply," Galea'i said.

According to their website, it is important to establish an Executive Leadership Development Program as "the insular areas have experienced many challenges to developing and retaining qualified, skilled staff in government agencies that handle the accounting, budget, finance, procurement, and audit functions. Additionally, many career senior leaders and managers in the insular governments are expected to retire within the next several years, leaving a potential gap in managerial and technical capability. The insular areas need to establish a pool of staff with potential for promotion into these key positions and groom them through training programs, special assignments, and systematic mentoring."

In addition, "The Insular governments recognize the need to identify and develop staff to ensure that turnover of key individuals does not adversely impact government operations. However, the insular governments lack the funding and resources to establish an inter-govern-

ment initiative." That is why the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/ OIA) has turned to its partner, the Graduate School, USDA, to assist with developing the Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP) through the Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiative.

Additional information on the program can be found online at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>

Tafuna Family Health Center celebrates National Community and Health Center Week

Director of the Tafuna Family Health Center Mrs. Ofeira Nuusolia is inviting members of the general public to come out and take advantage of the numerous medical services being offered at their clinic, which is located in Tafuna on the road leading to Petesa.

The invitation comes in conjunction with National Community and Health Center Week.

The Tafuna Health Center offers free services for prenatal care and immunizations for the well-baby clinic. As with the LBJ Medical Center, there is a \$10 fee for dental services and primary care.

Primary care is generally for non-emergency cases where people can see a doctor, receive treatment, and get prescriptions for medications that have to be picked up at the LBJ Hospital pharmacy.

Nuusolia urges the residents of Tualauta County to take advantage of the services being offered at the Tafuna Health Center, as they are the ones for which the grant was awarded for the Center to operate.

Nuusolia made it clear that the invitation is not only limited to Tualauta residents, but is extended to the general public.

Some residents were seen stopping by the Center today to receive free information, blood pressure screening, and blood sugar testing.

DPS announces construction of new prison facility

Upon the completion of the new women's prison facility set to open next month, the Department of Public Safety will move on to their next major project, which is the construction of a new two-story structure that will house all prisoners as well as the administrative offices.

According to an announcement made by Acting Police Commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava, Governor Togiola Tulafono has already offered his blessings in support of the plan to build the new structure, which Filifaatali says will measure 80' x 180' and will be used to house all prisoners (maximum security and general population), as well as the prison's administrative offices for the staff and guards.

Filifaatali says they plan to travel to either Hawaii or the West Coast to take a look at some of the prison facilities there, to ensure that the planned structure will be in compliance with federal regulations.

He added that there is money to carry out the project, and he is hopeful that work will begin sooner than later, sometime before the year is out.

In addition to the new building, Filifaatali also announced that the prison compound will be surrounded by a new concrete wall that will encircle the entire facility.

"The new prison facility will house all the prisoners under one roof so we can keep a closer eye on them, and the concrete wall is our way of ensuring the public, especially those residing in the nearby Tafuna government housing, that DPS is doing what it can to make them feel safe," Filifaatali said.

New women's prison facility set to be completed next month

Acting Police Commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava said that if all goes well, the new women's prison facility located on the compound of the Tafuna Correctional Facility will be ready for occupancy as early as next month.

According to Filifaatali, work on the project is progressing well and project contractor PC Misalefua John Hudson has informed him that the only things left to install are the doors and windows which had to be specially ordered from off island.

Filifaatali said there has been a slight delay in the arrival of the doors and windows and once they are installed, the facility will be ready for move-in.

DPS Vice and Narcotics Unit transferred to the Office of the Commissioner

Acting Police Commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava has issued a memo transferring the functions of the Department of Public Safety's Vice and Narcotics Unit to the Office of the Commissioner.

The Vice and Narcotics Unit, which mainly handles all drug-related investigations, is under the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau (CIIB).

In his memo to CIIB commander Va'aomala Sunia, Filifaatali said he shares with Sunia the "frustration" because of the limited resources to include money; however, he feels it is best to transfer the functions of the Vice and Narcotics Unit to the Office of the Commissioner for the time being, at the same time working with other government agencies in securing the most needed resources in order to better enforce illegal drug laws.

Copies of Filifaatali's memo were forwarded to Attorney General Fepulea'i Afa Ripley, the local FBI field office, and the acting director of the Department of Homeland Security.

Port Administration will soon implement the use of high tech ID cards

The enrollment for Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) identification cards for the Port of Pago Pago begins August 20, according to an announcement by the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

The local TWIC enrollment center will be the Clarion Tradewinds Hotel in Ottoville which will be open Monday through Friday during regular business hours, except lunchtime.

Employees who enter restricted areas of the main dock will soon be required to have in their possession a TWIC ID card which is a practice already being implemented at other US ports.

It is not yet known when the requirement for TWIC ID cards will officially go into effect.

(TWIC is a tamper-resistant biometric credential that will be issued to workers who require unescorted access to secure areas of ports, vessels, outer continental shelf facilities, and all credentialed merchant mariners).

The TSA and the US Coast Guard are collaborating and working side by side to implement the program nationwide for the maritime sector, in accordance with federal law.

Lockheed Martin has been contracted by TSA to implement the TWIC program. The company sent a representative to the territory earlier this year to meet with representatives of the government as well as the private sector to discuss the new system. In addition, an assessment was also conducted on how to launch the program locally, as well as setting up the enrollment center for people requiring TWIC cards.

Once the program is fully implemented, a TWIC card will be required in order to enter restricted areas of the Port, similar to the requirements in place for certain areas of the Tafuna International Airport.

TSA says that TWIC is a vital security measure that will ensure individuals who pose a threat do not gain unescorted access to secure areas of the nation's maritime transportation system.

To obtain a TWIC, an individual must provide biographic and biometric information like fingerprints, in addition to successfully passing a security threat assessment conducted by TSA.

More information on the pre-enrollment and enrollment process can be obtained by logging on to: <www.tsa.gov/twic>

Ituau faipule requests Governor and Police Commish to update and publicize sex offender registry

Ituau Malosi faipule Rep. Taotasi Archie Soliai is sponsoring a resolution requesting Governor Togiola Tulafono and the police commissioner to provide an updated list of sex offenders, as well as publicizing it.

The resolution has been introduced in the House of Representatives and assigned for review to the House Public Safety Committee.

Basically, Taotasi is calling for full disclosure of the territory's sex offender registry, which stores the names and other information pertaining to individuals convicted of committing sex offenses against children.

The registry is maintained by the Corrections Division of the Department of Public Safety and contains the name of the sex offender, his/her photograph, fingerprints, criminal history and address, including the name of his/her family matai.

The obvious concern, according to Taotasi, is the fact that we are a small island community and families have the right to know whether they are living next door to a sex offender. He added that the registry is not as public as it should be and the process for which to obtain information from the registry is time consuming.

Under local law, all relevant registry information, not including the identity and location of any victims involved in the offenses can be made available to the general public, but only by written requests.

This also applies to requests from others like legitimate law enforcement agencies and members of the public who must demonstrate a necessity for the protection of themselves and/or their families.

Also, in the case of health care treatment, an official approval from the High Court is necessary. In addition, written requests also apply to prospective employers in any field that has contact with minors, child care agencies, counseling and social services groups or agencies, churches, and the hotel industry.

The Department of Human and Social Services is the only agency that can access relevant registry information without written request.

The police commissioner can release offender registry information as necessary to protect the public and under the law, he is responsible for developing and implementing a policy on the release of relevant offender information. However, the limitations to the release of the information are listed above.

Requiring written requests is too time consuming and that is why Taotasi is seeking, through his resolution, to forego the paperwork involved in accessing the registry information. His proposed resolution states that considering the increasing occurrences of sexually based offenses in the High Court, other means of enhancing public safety must be sought.

The resolution states that publicly listing the names of sex offenders will serve as deterrence for future criminal acts by them, especially considering that the territory lacks treatment programs for sex offenders.

"Recidivism by these offenders is likely to occur unless a publicized registry is put into place," the resolution says, adding that informing the public of those persons who may pose a danger to their families will serve as assurance that DPS is taking an additional step towards protecting the safety and welfare of the community.

Local law states that any person convicted of offenses - ranging from kidnapping, sex-related to false imprisonment, and prostitution-related - against a person under 18 is required to register their name, identifying information, current residential address, fingerprints, photo, and any requested bodily fluids with the prison warden.

Sex offenders who fail to notify the TCF about any change of address is guilty of a misdemeanor.

It is the warden's responsibility to maintain the registry by verifying addresses and registering offenders' records which are referred from other states or US jurisdictions. Also, the warden is required under law to transmit the information to federal agencies including the FBI, US Department of Justice, the National Sex Offender Registry, and the local Department of Human and Social Services.

Territory invited to International Arts and Musical Festival in Tahiti

Officials of the Arts Council will be discussing with Governor Togiola Tulafono an invitation for the territory to take part in Tahiti's "Ia Marae Te Ao" 1st International Festival set to be held in Papara, French Polynesia from September 12-29.

This is the first international cultural event featuring traditional groups and their musicians. The number of members for each participating group is not to exceed 25 people, including leaders, dancers, singers, musicians, and interpreters.

Outdoor and indoor performances will be programmed, and visits to places of interest will be included for an event in which Tahiti will provide to all participants for the duration of the festival: transportation to and from the airport, transportation to places of visits, accommodations in school dormitories, three meals a day, medical service and first aid, and English and Spanish translators, as needed.

Performances will be according to program, and music must be played live. The exclusive use of tapes or electric musical instruments is not permitted.

The invitation comes less than two weeks after the territory played host to the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts.

DOH report on surveillance during Festival notes no major clusters of illness

During the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts, the local Department of Health conducted active disease surveillance in an effort to ensure early detection of illness and rapid public health response to potential health concerns.

The process involved collecting health information on a daily basis from all Festival participants seeking medical care at the LBJ Medical Center, the Tafuna Family Health Center, and the field medical sites at Utulei Beach and Veterans Memorial Stadium.

DOH also collected health reports from delegation medical staff members.

According to DOH, a daily health status report was generated using the data collected, and the information was then submitted by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff to the Unified Health Command (UHC).

Director of Health Uto'ofili Asofaafetai Maga explained that "no major clusters of illness during the Festival were detected."

A total of 306 Festival participants sought medical care during the surveillance period from July 17 – August 6. Of that number, 12% (36 people) described symptoms of respiratory illness. During the same period, 19% (57 people) were treated for headaches while 16% (48 people) reported symptoms of gastroenteritis.

Thirty-three people or 11% of the patients reported musculoskeletal pain.

July 25 was when the greatest volume of patients sought medical assistance, DOH reports.

Uto'ofili said that there were two imported and two locally acquired cases of dengue fever detected during the Festival. He added that efforts to reinforce basic dengue fever prevention methods (the 3 Ds), and the cooperative approach were used.

"The cooperative approach and vigilance of island medical personnel helped to assure a safe and successful Festival," the Director of Health concluded.

AS Humane Society represented in Humane Education Conference

A delegate from the American Samoa Humane Society (ASHS) met with fellow animal welfare professionals from Asia, the Pacific, and Australasia in New Zealand recently to examine methods of improving the treatment of animals in the region.

This is the first time animal welfare professionals and humane educators from these regions have come together to share resources, skills, knowledge, and experience.

The four-day South Pacific Humane Education Conference and Workshop covered everything from getting humane education into school curriculums and encouraging teacher involvement, to utilizing volunteers and running effective animal welfare campaigns.

ASHS's Kim Keyser explained that the conference was highly rewarding and encouraging. "A number of the programs and initiatives already in place in Australasia and the South Pacific region are inspiration for achievements the ASHS will begin to implement for American Samoa," she said, adding that the most significant thing she learned from the conference is how important humane education is as a means for improving society as a whole.

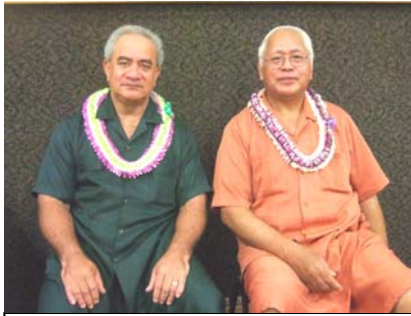
"By conveying to people that animals are worthy of respect, we are sending the message that all people, including the defenseless, should be treated with the same consideration," Keyser explained.

The South Pacific Humane Education Conference and Workshop was organized and sponsored by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Royal New Zealand SPCA.

In addition to American Samoa, other animal welfare professionals and humane educators from other countries who participated in the conference include Australia (RSPCA Queensland); the Cook Islands (Esther Honey Foundation); the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (PAWS); Fiji (Fiji SPCA); Guam (Animals in Need); India (VSPCA); Indonesia (Profauna); Malaysia (SPCA Selango); New Zealand (RNZSPCA); Papua New Guinea (RSPCA); Palau (Animal Welfare Services); Samoa (Animal Protection Society of Samoa); Singapore (ACRES); and Vanuatu (Sam's Animal Welfare Trust).

Governor Emphasizes Commitment During ASCC Address

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer



Hon. Governor Togiola Tulafono provided the keynote address at a General Assembly of the ASCC faculty this past Friday.

Following his speech, the Governor spoke with Board of Higher Education Chairman Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi (right).

(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Invited to speak at a General Assembly of the faculty of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), as well as members of the Board of Higher Education, Governor Togiola Tulafono shared his views on education in American Samoa, and his belief that committed teachers can provide one of the keys to the territory's success in the future. "Without commitment, you do nothing more than just a job," said the Governor, "but with commitment, you can change lives."

ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i welcomed the Governor to the stage to provide the keynote address at the faculty assembly which traditionally takes place at the beginning of each semester. Remarking on how he enjoys speaking before educators, Togiola recalled his own experience as a teacher of Business Law at ASCC more than three decades ago, when the College first opened at its original location in Utulei. "I thank the instructors of ASCC for the job they do, and the Board of Higher Education for their leadership," said Togiola, "because educators provide one of the most important forms of public service. In my view, anyone who takes public service seriously only gets paid half of their worth. They get paid for the job they do, but not for all the extra time and thought they need to put in to get things right. You can find no better example of this than the teaching profession."

While emphasizing his support for the territory's education system, the Governor also spoke about the challenges that remain for today's educators. Speaking of the many ways education has changed over the years, the Governor pointed out one area where he feels some teachers have grown complacent. "Students today may have more sophistication in many ways," he said, "but it also seems to me that many of them lack a sense of personal responsibility, which you can see by their actions. As part of their education, students need to learn accountability for their actions. To this end, teachers need to teach more than just knowledge, but values as well. Again, this comes back to the idea of commitment."

On the importance of education to the economic development of the territory, the Governor said, "We need good education to survive in the long run. We have no natural resources except fish. Therefore, people make up our most valuable natural resource. Those of you in education need to ask yourselves, 'What am I doing for future generations?' Education means freedom, and I don't mean just in a political sense, but in the sense of each person developing their full potential for the benefit of themselves and their country." Togiola ended his address with a pledge to continue dialogue with ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i on ways that the College can continue to improve its services to American Samoa.

Following his talk, the Governor took a tour of the new Administration and Education Facility, located in the site of the former ASCC Auditorium. "The Governor found the new facilities very impressive," said the College's Chief Financial Officer Dr. Falema'o Pili, who showed Togiola around the newly-reconfigured area in the center of campus. "He enjoyed meeting the employees and finding out what kind of jobs they do." The Governor's tour included the site of the soon-to-open Le Bookstore, located at the College's front entrance in the space formerly occupied by the offices of Administrative Services and Human Resources. Le Bookstore, scheduled to open in early September, will carry an expanded inventory of student accessories in addition to all required textbooks for ASCC classes. For the time being, the existing ASCC Bookstore, located in the Cafeteria Building, remains in operation.

In another new development this semester, during the past week's registration ASCC has implemented its new data system, "Colleague", with the assistance of Michelle Lane and Joe Fisher of DataTel, the mainland company that designed the new system. Colleague links the College's Admission & Records Office, Business Office, and Financial Aid Office all into the same network, thus streamlining the registration process and cutting down on the amount of paper used to store student information. Having spent the week on campus making sure Colleague started up smoothly, Fisher said that the system worked "brilliantly" during the registration period. "It performed exactly how we expected it to," he said, "and sped up the whole registration process considerably."

Typically, each new semester brings new faces to the ASCC faculty as instructors come and go. This semester, Mr. Steven Williams joins the Language & Literature Department following a stint at Clarendon College, located near Amarillo, Texas. The Math Department welcomes new instructor Mr. Tunusa'i Leiato, and the Business Department now has a new Accounting instructor, Mr. Fofu Moea'i.



Hon. Governor Togiola Tulafono engages in a lively discussion with ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i (left) following the Governor's speech before a General Assembly of the College's faculty this past Friday.

(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

DBAS seeking applications for CEO/President position

The Development Bank of American Samoa is currently advertising for the position of Chief Executive Officer/President, a position that has been vacant since former CEO/President Utu Abe Malae stepped down from the post several weeks ago to run for Governor of American Samoa in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

The financial institution's Board of Directors is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the position.

The Board is looking for a highly skilled, motivated person of sound character with the necessary education and experience that includes an MBA in banking or finance or closely related field, with 8-10 years of relevant experience.

Applicants must possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills; sound organizational and analytical skills; the ability to coordinate, manage and direct others; the ability to plan and execute; and a thorough knowledge of the banking industry in particular, development financing.

Compensation is regionally competitive and will commensurate with qualifications.

Qualified and interested applicants may submit a copy of their CV by post or courier to:

Development Bank of American Samoa
Pago Pago Park
PO Box 9
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attention: Mary Malau'ulu

No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

DOH encourages parents to get their children immunized for the new school year

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and it couldn't be a more perfect time for the local Department of Health to encourage parents to get their children's immunization shots updated not only to protect them from diseases, but to fulfill requirements by the local school system that all children must be up-to-date with their vaccinations prior to entering the classroom.

The DOH Immunization Program is inviting all parents to get their children immunized at any one of their 6 clinic/dispensary locations – 2 in the Manu'a Islands (Ofu and Ta'u), and 4 in Tutuila (Amouli, Fagaalu, Tafuna, Leone).

Immunizations are free of charge and can save parents a lot of unnecessary heartache in the long run, if and when their child contracts a disease that could have been easily prevented with a simple shot.

When a child is fully immunized, he/she will receive a stamp on their yellow shot card denoting that he/she is completely up to date with their immunization shots.

When it comes to children, the DOH Immunization Program says to parents: Love them. Protect them. Immunize them.

More information on the DOH immunization program can be obtained by calling 699-8464/8465.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)